SPIDER-MAN® UNMASKED

MARVEL® 13 .com

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN®

DAVID
NAUCK
CAMPANELLA

'RINGO! + MANLEY MOUNTS

WWW.MARVEL.COM © 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN

Through the manipulations of Mysterio, Midtown High has been transformed into a massive Haunted House! Now, Spider-Man--along with the school's principal --finds himself caught between a literal rock and a hard place: Two Mysterios, both purporting to be the one-and-only, and there's clearly no love lost between them.

Meanwhile, Flash Thompson has been endeavoring to get a small group of students to safety, only to become separated from Miss Arrow, the school nurse.

Miss Arrow, in turn, finds herself confronting yet another Mysterio, this one claiming to be the original Master of Illusion, a.k.a. Quentin Beck, who supposedly died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. To prove his identity, he removed his helmet-- revealing a very dead Beck with half his head shot off!

To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

HERE, GUYS! THE FRONT DOORS! WE MADE IT!

NOW I WANT YOU GUYS TO GO THROUGH AND RUN OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, COACH? WHAT ABOUT MISS ARROW?

PRINCE of SPACE

I AIN'T OUTTA HERE UNTIL I FIND HER. HER AND SPIDEY.

RIGHT. MR. PAR--

YOU MEAN MR. PARKER?

JEEZ. HE... HE REALLY *IS* SPIDEY, ISN'T HE?

WELL... SURE, COACH! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?

IT'S JUST THAT--

NEVER MIND. JUST GO. NOW.

BUT--

NO "BUTS!" YOU GET YOUR BUTTS IN GEAR OR TOMORROW THE BUNCH OF YOU ARE GONNA BE GIVING ME A HUNDRED PUSH-UPS EACH!

YESSIR!

UNHHH...

NOW THAT THE KIDS ARE SAFE, I GOTTA FIND A WAY TO HELP ARROW...

"...NOT TO MENTION OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN."

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW RIDICULOUS YOU LOOK IN THAT OUTFIT?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS CLEARLY ABSURDLY ATTIRED!

OKAY, THIS IS JUST SO DRENCHED IN IRONY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

I HATE A MYSTERY

CONCLUSION

PETER DAVID
WRITER

TODD NAUCK
PENCILER

ROBERT CAMPANELLA
INKER

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
COLORIST

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

MICHAEL O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ROGER...I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

ME?

YEAH.

A.V. ROOM

STAY HERE UNTIL I SAY IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT.

A.V. ROOM

ALL... ALL RIGHT. I THINK I CAN DO THAT.

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A RAT, KLUM. A LITTLE RAT, SCURRYING AROUND AND NIBBLING ON THE ACCOUTREMENTS OF YOUR BETTERS.

KLUM? ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S...FRANCIS KLUM...?

NOT FOR LONG...

BECAUSE I HAVE *JUST* THE THING TO DEAL WITH RATS!

OH NO! GIANT SNAKES! WHATEVER WILL I DO?

AM I PANICKING YET? AM I TREMBLING IN YOUR PRESENCE?

WHAT'S THAT? I'M NOT? FANCY THAT!

ARHHHH!!

ANYTHING... YOU...CAN THROW AT ME...

...I...CAN COUNTER!

UNHHHH!!!

A...A NICE TRICK... BUT IT WON'T SAVE YOU...

YOU'RE THE ONE... WHO'LL NEED SAVING...

BOY, THE YANKEES SURE GOT SHELLACKED LAST NIGHT.

IT'S...IT'S A TRICK! SOME KIND OF--

I...I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT, RIGHT? TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS...

NO TRICK. NO ILLUSION.

YOU'RE... YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME YOU'RE... *DEAD?*

I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS AN *"AGING ALTERNATIVE."*

BUT THE UNIVERSE DESPISES WASTE, MISS ARROW. SIMPLY BECAUSE I WAS DONE WITH LIFE...

...AS IT TURNS OUT, *LIFE* WASN'T DONE WITH *ME.*

OR "AFTER-LIFE," MORE PROPERLY. AFTER ALL, WE ALL KNOW WHERE SUICIDES WIND UP. AND AS IT TURNS OUT...

...THERE WERE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO FELT THAT I COULD SERVE THEIR NEEDS. WE ALL DO OUR PARTS IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS, DON'T WE?

BUT THEN, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL *YOU* THAT.

I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING* ABOUT. YOU'RE *CRAZY!*

IS THAT YOUR STORY? ARE YOU STICKING TO IT?

YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES, THEN. VERY WELL...

I'VE ALWAYS *LIKED* GAMES.

LET'S PLAY *"ASHES, ASHES, WE ALL FALL DOWN."*

EVERYTHING HAPPENS IN ITS PROPER TIME, MISS ARROW. THAT'S WHY SUICIDES ARE SO COSMICALLY DETESTED. GOD DESPISES PEOPLE WHO KILL THEMSELVES; IT'S A PLEASURE HE PREFERS TO RESERVE FOR HIMSELF.

HE HATES IT WHEN *OTHERS* GET IN ON THE FUN.

STILL, WE ALL HAVE OUR PARTS TO PLAY, I SUPPOSE. I PLAY FOR MY NEW SIDE... AND YOU FOR YOURS. AND BOTH HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--

--TALKING ABOUT, YES, YES, YOU ALREADY SAID THAT.

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN FOOL THE MASTER OF ILLUSION?

THEN AGAIN, WHY SHOULDN'T YOU? THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH SELF-DELUDED INDIVIDUALS.

CONSIDER, FOR INSTANCE, MY TWO "HEIRS."

"AT THIS MOMENT, THEY ARE BATTLING WITH ALL THE FURY THAT THEY CAN MUSTER. AND SPIDER-MAN IS WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY... EXCEPT HE'S NOT CERTAIN WHAT HE'LL DO ONCE HE GETS IT.

"JUST THINK: IF MY WOULD-BE SUCCESSORS PUT AS MUCH ENERGY INTO BETTERING MANKIND AS THEY DO INTO TRYING TO DESTROY EACH OTHER, HUMANITY MIGHT WELL ENTER A GOLDEN AGE.

"AS IT IS...WELL, SOME LESSONS SIMPLY HAVE TO BE LEARNED RATHER THAN TAUGHT."

HUNH
HUNH

YOU GAVE IT A GOOD EFFORT, KLUM. YOU HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF NATURAL SKILL.

IF I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU, YOU MIGHT EVEN HAVE MADE A WORTHY APPRENTICE.

WHAT--?

THWIPP

MULTIPLE MYSTERIOS IS BAD ENOUGH. NOW WE'RE GONNA HAVE A BUNCH OF *DONALD TRUMPS?* I DON'T *THINK* SO.

AND I DON'T THINK *YOU* REMEMBER THAT I CAN DISSOLVE YOUR WEBBING AT WILL.

YOU'RE MAKING A FOOLISH MISTAKE, PARKER. HELP ME FINISH OFF THIS FOOL...EARN AT LEAST A *TEMPORARY* DETENTE...

OTHERWISE, WITH YOUR IDENTITY KNOWN, TIME IS ON MY SIDE. SOONER OR LATER, I'LL--

FORGET IT, MISTY. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE OF A SOONER-THAN-LATER KINDA GUY.

SO HOW ABOUT I CLEAN YOUR CLOCK *SOONER* AND LET *LATER* SORT ITSELF OUT?

OOOO! ONE OF YOUR PATENTED "NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T" CLOUDS! THE KIND THAT SCREWS UP EVEN MY SPIDER-SENSE!

HERE'S THE FUNNY THING: FIRST, MY SPIDER-SENSE IS MORE HEIGHTENED THAN EVER. SECOND, I'VE GOT SOME ON-BOARD TRACKING TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN'T BE BEAT.

BETWEEN THE TWO OF THOSE...

WAAAM

...THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

UNNFFFF!

SEE, I FIGURE IF YOU'RE TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT YOUR RIVAL...THEN YOU'RE THE ONE I SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT.

YOU THOUGHT CORRECTLY.

MY LITTLE FRIENDS ARE POISONED, SPIDER-MAN! THE SLIGHTEST SCRATCH--

--WOULD BE REALLY NASTY IF I LET THEM GET ANY-WHERE NEAR...WHICH I'M NOT ABOUT TO DO.

SEE, I'VE UNDERGONE SOME CHANGES SINCE WE LAST DANCED. I'M FASTER...

...AND STRONGER!

KRAAAK

ILLUSIONS ARE GREAT AND ALL, BUT YOU CAN'T BEAT REAL LIFE.

AND *YOU* CAN'T BEAT ME.

NOR COULD THAT FOOL. BUT I REALIZED THERE WAS NO POINT EXPENDING ENERGY AGAINST HIM.

I SIMPLY ALLOWED HIM TO THINK HE HAD ME ON THE ROPES...KNOWING THAT YOU'D STEP IN TO DEFEAT HIM FOR ME.

YOUR PATHETIC INTEREST IN HELPING THOSE *"IN NEED"* IS *JUST* THAT PREDICTABLE...EVEN WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP.

I JUST NEED YOU DEAD.

IT'S WHAT YOU DESERVE...FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY BROTHER.

YOU THINK I'M JUST GONNA STAND HERE AND LET YOU *STAB* ME?

NOT AT ALL. I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO PICK IT UP...

AND KILL YOURSELF WITH IT.

RIGHT NOW.

N-NO...

YES.

UNLESS YOU'RE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WHATEVER "IMPROVEMENTS" THERE MAY BE IN YOUR POWER... IS SUFFICIENT TO WITH-STAND MINE.

EVERY MYSTERIO UNTIL NOW HAS RELIED ON TRICKS. IN MY CASE, THEY MERELY AUGMENT MY POWER.

I COULD TELEPORT MY FIST INTO YOUR HEAD. BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO SIMPLE, TOO--

WHA--?

ARRHHH!!

Y'LIKE THAT? THAT'S NOTHIN'! YOU'RE LUCKY I AIN'T HOLDING A DODGEBALL!

FOOL! YOU'VE JUST KILLED EVERY-ONE IN THIS SCHOOL.

WHAT...?

I WASN'T LYING WHEN I SAID THERE WAS A BOMB IN THE SCHOOL. IT'S IN THE BASEMENT, NEAR THE FURNACE.

AND I'VE JUST REMOTE-ACTIVATED IT.

COACH

WHEN IT GOES OFF IN JUST UNDER THREE MINUTES, THE ENTIRE BLOCK WILL GO UP.

I, OF COURSE, WILL HAVE TELEPORTED TO SAFETY. EVERYONE ELSE WON'T BE AS FORTUNATE.

OF COURSE, I COULD BE BLUFFING. CARE TO CALL ME ON IT?

I THOUGHT NOT.

DAMNATION. CAN'T FOCUS MY POWER...THROUGH THE PAIN...

THE SIMPLER APPROACH IS STARTING TO LOOK...A LOT BETTER...

ARRRHHG!

THERE IS A GREAT GAME GOING ON, ARROW. ALL THE PIECES MUST BE *IN* PLACE...AND KNOW THEIR PLACE...

WE CAN'T HAVE THEM WANDERING OFF ON THEIR OWN, NOW, CAN WE?

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I'M SAYING THAT PETER PARKER MUSTN'T LEAVE THIS SCHOOL. NOT YET. IT'S NOT TIME.

YOU MUST WORK TO KEEP HIM HERE.

MY SUPERIORS WANT THIS...AND SO, I SUSPECT, DO YOURS.

MY SUPERIORS? *WHAT* SUPERIORS?

IF YOU WISH TO *CONTINUE* THE CHARADE, GO AHEAD. WHAT IS ONE SMALL GAME, I SUPPOSE, IN THE MIDST OF THE MUCH LARGER ONE BEING PLAYED?

KEEP HIM AT THE SCHOOL. PLAY YOUR PART, SO HE CAN PLAY HIS...

AND I... MINE...

PETE--!

CAN I... Y'KNOW...CALL YOU PETE? OR SHOULD IT BE SPIDEY? OR...

FLASH, YOU SAVED MY BUTT BACK THERE. MYSTERIO HAD ME ON THE ROPES. YOU CAN CALL ME HARVEY THE WONDER HAMSTER IF YOU WANT.

WATCH YOUR BACK, THOUGH. MYSTERIO WAS SO FOCUSED ON ME THAT YOU CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD. YOU WON'T GET THAT LUCKY AGAIN.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF OL' BUBBLEHEAD.

THAT'S YOUR FIRST MISTAKE. DON'T MAKE IT YOUR LAST.

AFTER I GET THIS SQUARED AWAY, WE GOTTA FIND THE KIDS.

THEY'RE SAFE. I GOT 'EM OUT OF THE SCHOOL.

REALLY? WOW. BETWEEN THAT AND BAILING ME OUT, YOU'RE HAVING A GREAT DAY. HEY, UH...SORRY ABOUT REARRANGING YOUR FACE EARLIER...

DON'T SWEAT IT. I PROBABLY HAD IT COMING.

NO "PROBABLY" ABOUT IT. STILL... I'M SORRY.

OKAY...DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME HERE...BUT THE MECHANISM DOESN'T LOOK TOO COMPLICATED.

00:17

WELL, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT A BIT MORE CHALLENGING, WON'T WE?

WHA...?

IT'LL TAKE YOU ONLY A FEW SECONDS TO JUMP UP AND CUT HIM DOWN... BUT YOU'LL NEED THAT TIME TO DEFUSE THE BOMB. MEANTIME, I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON YOUR KNIFE-THROWING FRIEND.

F-forget m-uh...uh...

THWIP

AH, SO YOU LEAVE HIM TO DIE. A WISE, IF TRAGIC, CHOICE.

I'LL SAY THIS FOR ALL YOU FREAKIN' MYSTERIOS...

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO SHUT UP.

BY THE WAY, YOU MIGHT BE WANTING THIS.

TOOK ME ABOUT THREE SECONDS TO STOP IT.

00:04

AND THAT'S ABOUT HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE ME TO PUT PAID TO YOU, ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON YOU.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER SURRENDERING NOW, FRANCIS.

NOW THAT I KNOW IT'S YOU, I'VE SET CYBERNETIC SCRAMBLING CIRCUITRY IN MY COSTUME THAT'LL BLOCK YOUR MENTAL COMMANDS.

AND YOUR ATTEMPTS TO AMBUSH ME VIA TELEPORTATION WON'T WORK, BECAUSE MY HEIGHTENED SPIDER-SENSE AND ON-BOARD TRACKING SENSORS WILL WARN ME.

IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL GIVE UP NOW.

You... can do all that?

NO. I'M JUST USING MY MOST *DANGEROUS* POWER OF ALL: MY SPIDER-BULL.

"GIVE UP NOW." SMUG, ARROGANT FOOL.

THIS GAME IS BARELY BEGUN.

HE THINKS HIS SPIDER-SENSE WILL SAVE HIM?

NOTHING WILL SAVE HIM. NOT IN--

LIBRARY

WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

YOU...YOU KEEP *AWAY* FROM ME.

WOULD THAT I *COULD*, MY DEAR.

BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME A PAWN IN A MUCH LARGER GAME.

NO! LET GO!

YOU CAN FIGHT IF YOU WISH. IN FACT, I'D PREFER IT IF YOU DID...

KCHHH

KOFF

KOFFFFFF

WHA... WHAT...DID YOU...

I AM SICK OF MYSTERIOS LECTURING ME ABOUT GAMES.

DAMN SICK.

WHAT... *ARE* YOU...?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M *NOT*.

I'M *NOBODY'S* PAWN.

AAAAAAAAAA....!!

Arrow!

COACH

FLASH! OH....THANK GOD!

HE WAS *HERE!* THAT...THAT MYSTERIO CREATURE! I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME!

We heard you scream.

ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT I HEARD A GUY SCREAM.

NO, IT WAS ME. BUT THEN HE JUST...HE COLLAPSED, CLUTCHING WHAT LOOKED LIKE A WOUND IN HIS SHOULDER. AND THEN HE JUST...JUST *VANISHED.*

WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR VOICE?

Ohh...a little strangulation. Nothing serious.

AND THE CHILDREN! THEY'RE ALL RIGHT?

I got 'em out of the building.

WELL, THEN...

"...LET'S MAKE SURE THEY'RE OKAY."

ARE THEY...?

THEY'RE JUST UNCONSCIOUS. MY ON-BOARD OXYGEN SYSTEM IS PROTECTING ME FROM THE MIST...AND IT'S STARTING TO DISSIPATE ANYWAY.

JUST LIKE THE REST OF THIS "HAUNTED HOUSE" SCENARIO SHUT DOWN WHEN MYSTERIO BOOKED IT OUTTA HERE. HE MUST'VE HAD REMOTE CONTROLS IN HIS COSTUME.

YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THESE THINGS.

YEAH, WELL... WHEN Y'HANG AROUND SPIDEY, YOU JUST PICK STUFF UP. HECK, HE AND I GO BACK A LONG--

YOU WERE VERY BRAVE. AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE?

WHAT?

I'M GOING TO FIND A WAY TO CONVINCE PETER TO STAY. WE NEED HIM.

"SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN."

A.V. ROOM

UHM... HELLO?

IS IT SAFE YET?

JUST LET ME KNOW WHEN IT IS, OKAY?

A.V. ROO

RIGHT. I'LL JUST WAIT HERE, THEN.

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAIL

There it is! The fabulous conclusion of our Mysterio arc! So, Friendly folks, this month's big questions: who was your favorite Mysterio? Quentin Beck, Daniel Berkhart, or Francis Klum? And what's your read on the enigmatic Ms. Arrow? Who is she and what does she have up her sleeves (besides those huge freakin' spikes)? In the meantime, let's open the mailbag and see what your fellow fans thought of issues #11 and 12.

FNSM Team,

Peter David is a genius. Every page of #11 made me cry, think... and even laugh so hard that I wet my pants a little. In the past, PAD has been far from my favorite writer, but he's really hit a groove here the likes of which I haven't seen since the later issues of his run on *Hulk*.

It is a pity to see Wieringo leave the book, but I really can't fault Nauck - his pencils, despite being quite different, were just as good as those in #1-10. Loughridge, however, really put all of the other colorists in the industry to shame!

Eleven issues in and I am still thoroughly enjoying myself. Keep up the stunning work!

- Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

I've just talked with our scientists, and they are quite pleased with the results. Pants-wetting aside, *Friendly #11* produced all the correct reactions in you, Adrian!

Greetings *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man*... uh...people I guess,

I would just like to say how much I am enjoying *Friendly Neighborhood*. I have always been a huge fan of Mike Wieringo's artwork, but I am really enjoying how Spider-Man has been written. I appreciate that he is using his intellect more and more, and I also enjoy how he is coping with everyone knowing his identity. Case in point: the confrontation between him and Flash Thompson when Peter smashes the dodgeball into Flash's face. And even though I am a huge opponent of characters returning from the dead, I must admit I found the alternate Ben Parker storyline very intriguing.

Well, enough adoration, I do have two questions about the goings-on in Spider-Man, both pertaining to the whole incident with Ben Parker and Hobgoblin 2211.

1.) Why is Hobgoblin 2211 green and purple instead of orange and red? Or at the very least shouldn't she have called herself the Green Goblin of 2211? I understand her nickname was "Hobby" and that she was a preexisting character, and that it doesn't matter now, what with her not existing—which is a confusing problem in and of itself—but I just wanted to sate my curiosity.

2.) So a Ben Parker from another universe is stuck in the main universe? Well, that's going to cause problems down the line. Alternate Ben Parker in the main Marvel Universe means one thing to me: that these two realities are damaged, and when I think damaged realities I think of the team whose job it is to fix damaged realities: the Exiles. So my question is this: will the Exiles be stopping by to fix the Ben Parker situation? It would be cool to see this problem resolved with an appearance by another future Spider-Man (by that I mean Spider-Man 2099). Well it's just a thought, and I can always dream, can't I?

Thanks for letting me rant for a while, and keep up the excellent work. I hope to keep reading for a long time to come.

- Christian
Internet

Christian, let's see if I can come up with some answers for you:

1) Well, Hobby called herself the "Hobgoblin" instead of the "Green" Goblin for the exact reason you mentioned... her nickname was Hobby, not Greeny. Now, as to why she's wearing green and purple instead of orange and red, it's quite simple: those colors are much more stylish in the year 2211.

2) You can certainly dream, Christian, but I can't promise an *Exiles* crossover anytime soon. However, as I've said many times prior, Peter David would love to bring back Spider-Man 2099, so I wouldn't be too surprised if he popped up.

Dear Spider-mail,

I have been an on-and-off-again fan of Marvel, especially Spider-Man, since I was young. I still remember my first comic, *X-Men #5*. I had just scored my first goal in peewee soccer and my dad bought it for me at the local 7-11.

Over the last year, I have found myself at the comic book store more and more often. It was great finding out what had been happening with all my favorite characters and now seeing where they're going.

Although, I've also been seeing a lot of criticism about the direction the characters are going. Apparently, many "hardcore" fans are afraid of change. Maybe the classic Spider-Man ("whoa, I just beat the bad guy up while making jokes, but now I have to hide my secret identity from Aunt May and make up with Mary Jane,") is comforting, but personally I like to see the characters grow.

My senior year English teacher taught me that the main character of the story is the one who experiences change. I love Spider-Man as a character, and I want to see him grow, learn, make mistakes... that is what I feel has always distinguished Marvel from the Distinguished Competitor (do we still use that term?): characters are human.

So as I babble on, the point is that you and the entire Marvel team are doing the right thing. Ignore the critics; they're gonna buy your comics anyway.

I'm proud to be a Marvel reader.

- Christopher Valli
East Hartford, CT

P.S. I noticed that some of the recent events of the Civil War arc seem to relate to the Earth X future vision of the Marvel Universe. Spider-Man's identity being public, Stark being kinda crazy, etc... Are you guys aiming that way for continuity?

Hey Christopher! Well, we're certainly glad to have you back in the comic book store and open to the direction we're taking with Spidey. As you pointed out, things would get pretty dull if we recycled the same stories from the '60s. It's a delicate balance between moving the characters forward and keeping them true to their original concepts.

And, hey, since your first comic book was *X-Men #5*, allow me to indulge in a plug for *Wolverine Origins #6*, which hearkens back to that story arc extensively. Be sure to check it out!

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Mail,

Peter David does it again! Another EXCELLENT issue this month. It's too bad he's not writing a third title (or is he, and I'm just missing it?) so I could give him a hat trick.

Anyways, in what is rapidly becoming my favorite monthly Spider title, Peter David entertains me with his witty repartee and a plethora of pop-culture references from "Airplane" to the "Spider-Man" movies and even to Batman! And he tells a pretty good story at the same time; even though nothing much actually happens in this issue—it's mostly setup—leave it to Peter David to make it as good an issue as one with action. I especially appreciated that this arc returns the haunted houses of our youth, rigged with gimmicks and cool stuff to give youngsters a thrill.

As for the big reveal? Well, the art kind of gave it away a long time ago. Notice that the original Mysterio is wearing a tattered red cape and seems to be smoldering? Think about it.

This is the perfect book for those like me who are disappointed with the direction of the rest of Marvel's Spider-Man line.

- Jonathan Stopek
Chicago, Illinois

Hey Jonathan! That's the beauty of having so many Spider-books when there are so many different kinds of Spider-fans; chances are, at least one of them will appeal to you!

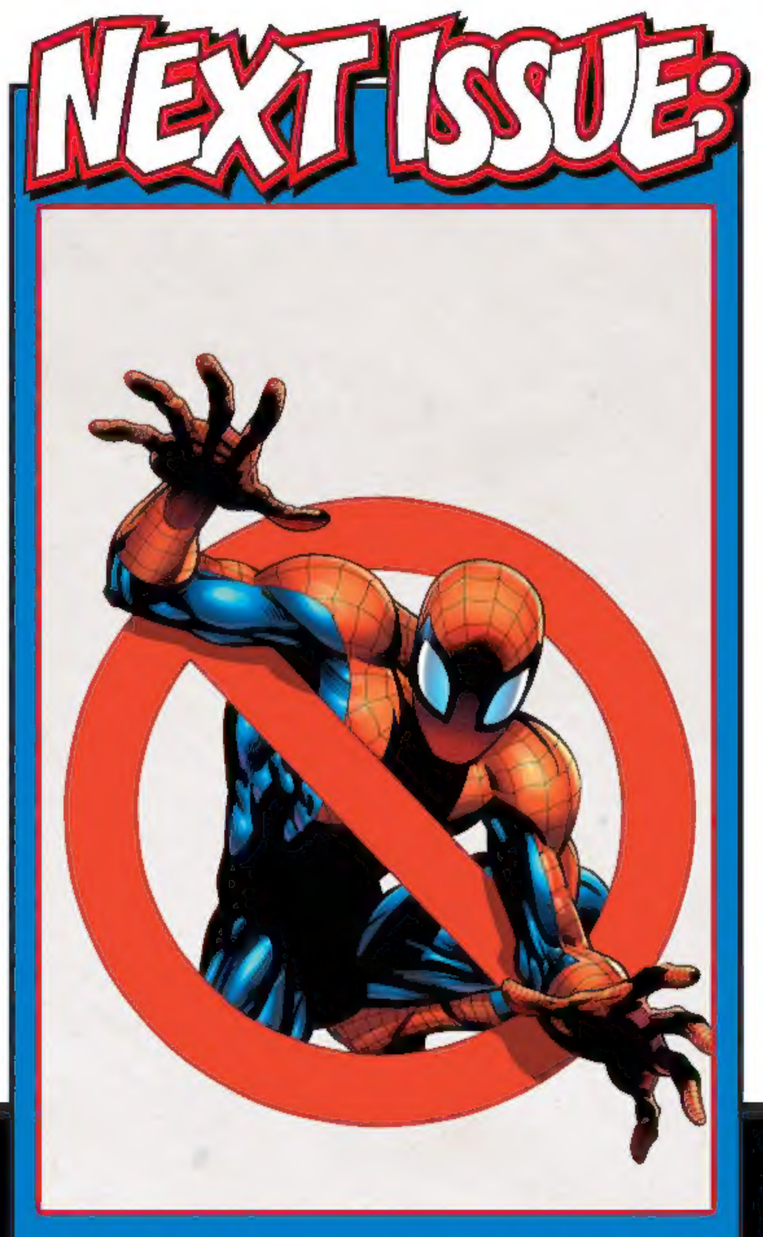
Keep writing in, folks, and come back next month for the return of the Vulture and Deb Whitman!

--Michael

MICHAEL O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN
c/o MARVEL COMICS
417 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016
IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED PLEASE LET US KNOW. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

E-MAIL:
spideyoffice@ MARVEL.COM
MARK E-MAIL
"OKAY TO PRINT"